This piece of writing by Christina Beck is a good example of an essay—an analytic composition dealing with a subject from a limited or personal point of view.

**Summary**: Beck explores the origins and meaning of the doctrine of Manifest Destiny as it applied to American expansion west across the continent.

Discuss the following with your reading circle; answer the questions thoughtfully and thoroughly on the back of this page.

1. Write one sentence from this essay that is Beck’s **opinion**. Cite it correctly! How do you know it’s her opinion rather than a **fact**?
2. Write one **fact** from Beck’s essay. Cite it correctly! How do you know this is a fact? Where do you think Beck might have gotten this information?
3. Even in the 1800s, the doctrine of Manifest Destiny had supporters and opponents. Supporters valued the spirit of energy, enthusiasm, and idealism it fueled. They liked the idea of spreading American political philosophy across the new nation. Opponents worried that it promoted arrogance and violence, hurt the people already established on the land, and created powerful enemies. Use the chart to brainstorm negative and positive **values, qualities,** and **outcomes** produced and encouraged by Manifest Destiny.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Positive | Negative |
|  |  |

After your circle has finished discussing this essay, work together to create a **poster**

that advertises FOR or AGAINST the doctrine of Manifest Destiny.